



Coffee Innovation Fund – Ethiopia

Supporting innovative and scalable solutions to increase profitability and market access of small-holder coffee farmers

Proving the feasibility of results-based carbon payments for Ethiopian coffee agroforestry

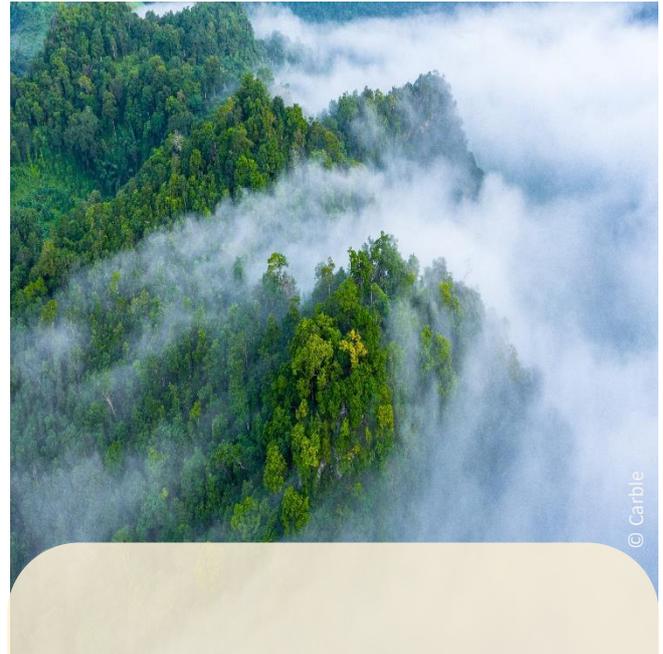
In countries like Ethiopia, coffee is grown by small-scale farmers in the shade of the natural forest canopy. Sadly, the resulting lower yields, as well as other socio-economic factors, result in many coffee farming households and coffee workers not earning enough to meet their basic needs – farmers do not earn a living wage or income. Coffee forests are subsequently converted to cropland, releasing their carbon stock. The desire to expand protected forest areas while attempting to enhance food security and income for farming communities is a well-known struggle.

Rewarding the farmers for maintaining the forest

Carble, a Dutch impact-technology startup, aims to reduce coffee's impact on the climate and poverty among small-scale coffee growers by rewarding farmers for storing carbon. Carble's objective is to achieve a successful conversion of the carbon storage capacity of the farmers' trees (both coffee and shade-trees) into a verified emissions reduction that can be included in a coffee brand's non-financial accounting after rewarding the farmers for maintaining the forest.

Reduce coffee brands' climate footprint and poverty among farmers with a single investment

Carble's approach combines the precision of manual field measurements with the scalability of remote analysis, resulting in a measurable, scalable, and cost-effective way to reduce both a coffee brand's climate footprint as well as poverty among coffee farmers – with a single investment. Part of the project is training the farmer beneficiaries in the use of the platform in order to facilitate the receipt of the payment through mobile money or bank transfers. The project will initially focus on the Guji Zone where the three coffee off-takers Carble plans to work with source their coffee. The Guji Zone currently has some of the highest deforestation-rates in the country.



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Project overview

Term: 2021-2022
Region: Guji, SNNP region, Ethiopia
Partner: Carble B.V.
Volume: EUR 50,000 (supported by the fund)
EUR 170,000 (total volume)

Goals

- ❖ Prevent deforestation of semi-forest coffee farms.
- ❖ Reduce the living income gap for smallholder coffee farmers.
- ❖ Produce verified emission-reductions for international coffee brands that are compliant with their carbon accounting protocols.

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